



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Water Quality
Coleen H. Sullins
Director

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Governor

Dee Freeman
Secretary

July 15, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Melba McGee, Environmental Coordinator, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

From: David Wainwright, Division of Water Quality *DW*

Subject: Comments on the Environmental Assessment related to proposed Improvements to US 158 (East Elizabeth Street) from existing US 17 Business (Road Street) to the east side of the Pasquotank River, Elizabeth City, Pasquotank and Camden Counties. Federal Aid Project No. STP-0158(31), TIP U-4438.

State Clearinghouse Project No. 09-389.

This office has reviewed the referenced document dated April 2009. The NC Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) is responsible for the issuance of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification for activities that impact Waters of the U.S., including wetlands. It is our understanding that the project as presented will result in impacts to jurisdictional wetlands, streams, and other surface waters. NCDWQ offers the following comments based on review of the aforementioned document:

Project Specific Comments:

1. It is stated that no practical opportunity exists to treat surface runoff from the bridge due to physical constraints. The NCDWQ requires stormwater to be collected and treated prior to it reaching surface waters. If not done so already, the NCDOT is strongly encouraged to contact the NCDWQ's Stormwater Permitting Unit Contact in the Washington Regional Office to further discuss the treatment of stormwater from the bridge.
2. Environmental documents, including environmental assessments, should include the classification (along with any supplemental classifications) of impacted streams and waterbodies as well as the DWQ Index Number. This portion of the river the bridge will be crossing is class SC; the DWQ Index Number is 30-3-(7).
3. Poindexter Creek appears to be located within the project area. It is unclear if any impacts to this stream will occur as it is not discussed in the document. The stream is shown on Figure 7, but runs off the page and does not appear to be shown in its entirety. The document should include a discussion and map of all stream and waterbodies within the project area. Discussions should include the classification as well as the DWQ Stream Index number. The document should also discuss any potential impacts to these waterbodies. If none are anticipated, then it should be stated.